

Amendments to the Drawings

A new sheet illustrating FIG. 4 is attached.

Attachment: New Sheet – FIG. 4

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-12 remain in the Application.

In the Office Action mailed June 24, 2005, the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37C.F.R. 1.83 (a), specifically because the drawings do not show logos and embossments or a layer of material attached to the bottom surface of the sheet, as recited in dependent claims 8 and 9.

Please cancel claims 8 and 9.

The Examiner has further objected that the steps of the claimed method are not shown in the drawings.

FIG. 4 has been added to the Application as a flow chart listing the steps as recited in claims 10 and 11 per the Examiner's suggestion.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative. Applicant has amended the Specification and Claims to recite that the radius of the bowling ball (R) shown in the equation of (D), the diameter of the through-holes, equals 4.30 inches. As recited in the Specification at page 4, line 10, page 5, line 16 and page 6, lines 3-4 a **tenpin** bowling ball is regulated to have a diameter of 8.60 inches. Therefore, the equation recites that the radius (R) equals 4.30 inches.

In this manner, for tenpin bowling balls, the through-hole is of a diameter (D) such that the hole "prevents the ball from rolling rather than carrying a substantial portion of the ball's weight (see page 5, line 26 to page 6, line 4).

No new matter has been added.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Galowitz, (United States Patent No. 4,214,684).

Galowitz ('684) appears to be directed at an apparatus for holding a plurality of balls for convenient transportation. More particularly, the technology is directed at holding eight (8) medium to small sized balls, such as for bocce or croquet, where a large number may easily be carried. The apparatus comprises a plurality (3) of support members spaced apart by balls in a vertical array and connected to a support frame, the frame comprising two support rods. A means is included for imposing a force on the support rods. At column 3, lines 1-3, '684 recites "more than **three support members** could be used if so desired as will be explained later" (emphasis added). Accordingly, Galowitz teaches a complex transportation device for bocce balls.

Applicant's present invention has a different purpose and contains none of the elements claimed in '684. Since the Applicant's device is directed at **tenpin** bowling balls, the majority of which weigh between and including 14 pounds to 16 pounds, Applicant's invention is not directed at transporting such balls, as a plurality would be too heavy and unsteady.

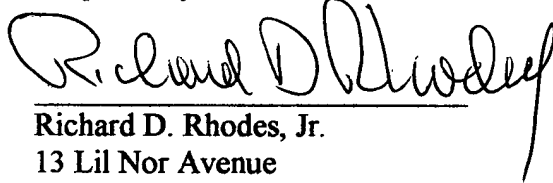
As recited at page 3, lines 15-18 of the Application, "It is a further object of the present invention to provide a ball **retention device** which has a plurality of openings, **each opening matched to the shape of the bowling ball such that the retention device carries little or no weight from the ball**, but rather prevents rolling of the bowling ball" (emphasis added). Thus, the diameter of the holes is not "an obvious matter of choice" as stated by the Examiner, but instead a purposeful calculation based on the formula recited

in the Specification and in the Claims. If the hole is made too small, the device carries all of the weight of the ball and the ball may easily roll out of the hole. If the hole is too large, the ball is supported by the underlying surface (floor) and may also easily roll out, defeating the purpose of the device. (See also page 4, lines 7-10, page 5, lines 21-22, and page 6, lines 2-13 for support).

In consideration of the amendments to the claims and the remarks hereinabove, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for examination. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. Re-examination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned at (603) 692-7339.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 26, 2005, at Somersworth, New Hampshire.

RD Rhodes 9/26/05